

Introduction and context

The Dutch government has asked Gasunie to develop a national infrastructure for hydrogen transport. With this 'hydrogen backbone', Gasunie will create a nationwide network that connects supply and demand for hydrogen within and between industrial clusters, storage locations and neighbouring countries. Approximately 85% of the hydrogen network will be based on retrofitted existing natural gas pipelines. The formal request to start and develop the hydrogen backbone, combined with the allocation of € 750 millions of financial support to enable the necessary pre-investments, requires uniform conditions on a non-discriminatory basis of third-party access. With this in mind, Hynetwork Services, an affiliate of Gasunie and responsible for the development of the hydrogen infrastructure, organises a consultation process on the general terms and conditions for hydrogen transport and connection services, with the intention for these services to meet the market needs.

General information

Hynetwork Services has developed a set of the general terms and conditions for hydrogen transport and connection services, based on the broad experience with natural gas third party access transport and connection agreements. The transport and connection agreements are set up in a recognisable framework. The basics and main topics, including the framework for the transport and connection agreements are described in the slide pack (Explanatory slidepack consultation.pdf).

Information about contract development process/ consultation process

Through this national consultation, Hynetwork Services aims to gain insight into the market needs, in order to be able to develop a market-based contractual framework for hydrogen transport and the connections to the transport system.

Prior to the national consultation, a pre-consultation has taken place in March 2022 with the parties that are at the forefront of hydrogen development in the Dutch industrial clusters. The pre-consultation has provided Hynetwork Services with some first insights in the market perspective on the key themes in the contractual framework and has helped Hynetwork Services to prepare the draft agreements for this national consultation. Following the pre-consultation, this national consultation will run from the 26th of April 2022 to the 16th of May 2022. Subsequently, Hynetwork Services will assess the received feedback with the aim and expectation to make the final hydrogen transport and connection agreements available in Q3 2022.

Invitation for feedback

Hynetwork Services seeks your views on the following questions concerning the general terms and conditions of the transportation agreement, connection agreement entry and connection agreement exit and invites you to submit a written response. For clarification, parties are not meant to reply a track – trace document of the agreements.

1. Do you agree that the set of general terms and conditions for the transportation and connection services will contribute to the further development of the hydrogen chain?
2. Are there any showstoppers in the set of conditions that will withhold you to agree with these terms?
3. Considering the fact that certain conditions, such as the hydrogen specifications and tariffs, will be laid down by the ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, do you agree that the general terms and conditions are transparent, objective and non-discriminatory?
4. Do you have any other feedback?

Deadline for response

Please send your response to info@hynetwork.nl before close of business on Monday 16 May 2022. Feedback received after this date cannot be taken into consideration. If you wish to have further clarification of anything outlined in this letter, or have any explanatory questions on the contractual framework, please do not hesitate to email us at info@hynetwork.nl.